

Amendments to the Claims

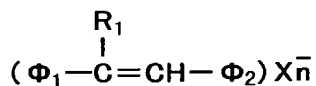
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

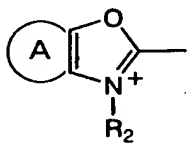
6. (Currently Amended) A light absorbent composition, which ~~comprising~~ comprises the a styryl dye of claim 1 and absorbs a visible light with a wavelength of around 400 nm when formed in a thin layer, said styryl dye having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of 400 nm or less and being represented by Formula 1:

Formula 1:

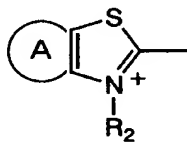


wherein in Formula 1,  $\Phi_1$  represents a heterocycle represented by any one of Formulae 2 to 8;  $\Phi_2$  represents an optionally substituted aromatic ring or heterocycle;  $R_1$  represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic hydrocarbon group, ether group, acyl group, halogen, or cyano group, and the aliphatic hydrocarbon group, ether group, or acyl group may have a substituent;  $X^-$  represents a counter ion; and "n" is a number of  $X^-$  to balance the electric charge in the styryl dye:

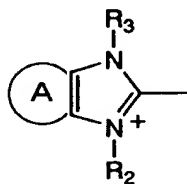
Formula 2:



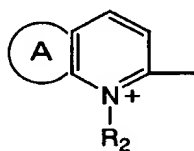
Formula 3:



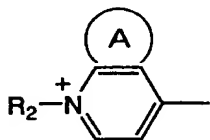
Formula 4:



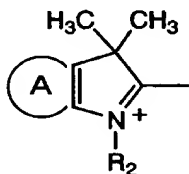
Formula 5:



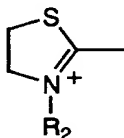
Formula 6:



Formula 7:



Formula 8:



throughout Formulae 2 to 7, A represents an optionally substituted monocyclic- or polycyclic-aromatic ring or heterocycle; when A is not present in Formulae 2 to 7, one or more substituents similar to those that are bound to A may be in the position where A is located; throughout Formulae 2 to 8, R<sub>2</sub> represents an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group which is identical to or different from R<sub>2</sub>.

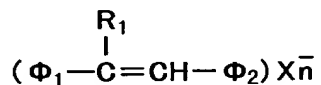
7. (Currently Amended) The light absorbent composition of claim 6, which contains one or more other organic dye compounds sensitive to a visible light.

8. (Currently Amended) The light absorbent composition of claim 6, which further contains one or more appropriate light-resistant improvers.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An optional recording medium comprising the a styryl dye of claim 1 represented by Formula 1 and capable of recording information by using a laser beam with a wavelength of 450 nm or less, said styryl dye having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of 400 nm or less and absorbing a visible light with a wavelength of around 400 nm when formed in a thin layer, :

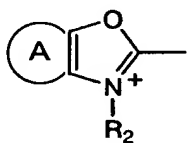
Formula 1:



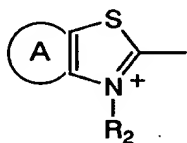
wherein in Formula 1,  $\Phi_1$  represents a heterocycle represented by any one of Formulae 2 to 8;  $\Phi_2$  represents an optionally substituted aromatic ring or heterocycle;  $R_1$  represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic hydrocarbon group, ether group, acyl group, halogen, or cyano group, and the aliphatic hydrocarbon

group, ether group, or acyl group may have a substituent; X<sup>-</sup>  
represents a counter ion; and "n" is a number of X<sup>-</sup> to balance  
the electric charge in the styryl dye:

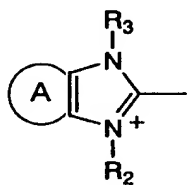
Formula 2:



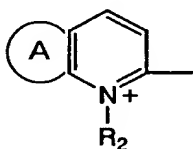
Formula 3:



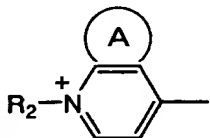
Formula 4:



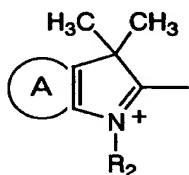
Formula 5:



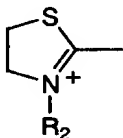
Formula 6:



Formula 7:



Formula 8:



throughout Formulae 2 to 7, A represents an optionally substituted monocyclic- or polycyclic-aromatic ring or heterocycle; when A is not present in Formulae 2 to 7, one or more substituents similar to those that are bound to A may be in the position where A is located; throughout Formulae 2 to 8, R<sub>2</sub> represents an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group which is identical to or different from R<sub>2</sub>.

11. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 10, which further contains one or more other organic dye compounds sensitive to a visible light.

12. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 10, which further contains one or more appropriate light-resistant improvers in a recording layer.

Claims 13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The light absorbent composition of claim 7, which further contains one or more appropriate light-resistant improvers.

Claims 16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The optical recording medium of claim 11, which further contains one or more appropriate light-resistant improvers in a recording layer.

Claims 19-20. (Canceled)